Relaxation of programme guidelines for rural road sector

1352. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to relax the programme guidelines for effective implementation of rural road schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines issued under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been simplified to speed up road connectivity projects running at a low pace in Naxal hit areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to monitor construction of rural roads under the PMGSY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to ensure effective implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) the Programme Guidelines have been amended to the following extent:-

(i) With the use of annual State Schedule of Rates, while estimating the cost of road projects by the State Governments, it is expected that the tender value would approximate the estimated value. In case the value of tender received is above the estimated value that has been cleared by the Ministry, the difference (tender premium) pooled for the entire State for works cleared in a particular Phase/Batch will be borne by the State Government.

(ii) In order to provide connectivity in the blocks bordering international boundary (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs), the population of the habitations within a path distance of the 10 km. may be treated as a cluster to determine the eligibility for connectivity under PMGSY. Earlier, it was 1.5 km.

(iii) The funding liability of the Government of India for the bridges falling on PMGSY roads has been enhanced upto 50 m span from existing 25 m. Cost of causeways, irrespective of their length, is to be fully borne by the Government of India. For bridges of higher span, the cost is shared between the State Government and the Government of India proportionately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the constraints being faced in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas for execution of PMGSY projects, the Ministry has decided to relax the programme guidelines as under :-

(i) Since, it is not possible to carry out detailed survey and prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) because of continuing violence in LWE affected areas, Stage-I proposals may be prepared even on the basis of line estimates for these areas.

(ii) Time period for completion of works in LWE affected areas may be extended upto 18 months for new contracts keeping in view of the security related interruptions. No price escalation would, however, be payable by the Central Government.

(iii) In view of the likelihood of non-availability of contractors, works may be departmentally executed in LWE affected areas by hiring machineries, procuring material and deployment of labourers on contract or piece-work as provided in the State Government's PWD manual.

(e) The programme is implemented by the agencies of the State Governments. Hence primary responsibility to monitor the implementation of the scheme is with the State Government. The Ministry of Rural Development monitors the implementation of the Programme through :-

(i) Performance Review Meetings (PRC)

(ii) Regional Review Meetings (PRC)

(iii) Meetings of the Empowered Committee

(iv) Field visits of the Officers of Ministry of Rural Development and National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), and

(v) Inspection by National Quality Monitors (NQMs).

Watershed management project

1353. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans of promoting watershed management in the drought-hit areas of rural India;

(b) if so, the areas where such projects are taking place; and

(c) the details of Central assistance and funds given to the various State Governments to implement such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) and (b) Earlier three watershed programmes namely Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas program (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) have been implemented by Department of Land Resources. These three schemes have been consolidated into a single programme since 26.2.2009 known as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). This Programme covers erstwhile DPAP and DDP areas as well.